



STUDYING A LANGUAGE CONTACT SITUATION IN THE CARIBBEAN ARCHIPELAGO OF SAN ANDRES, COLOMBIA

2017 Hispanic Linguistics Symposium, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

This presentation

1. Introduction

- i. The present project

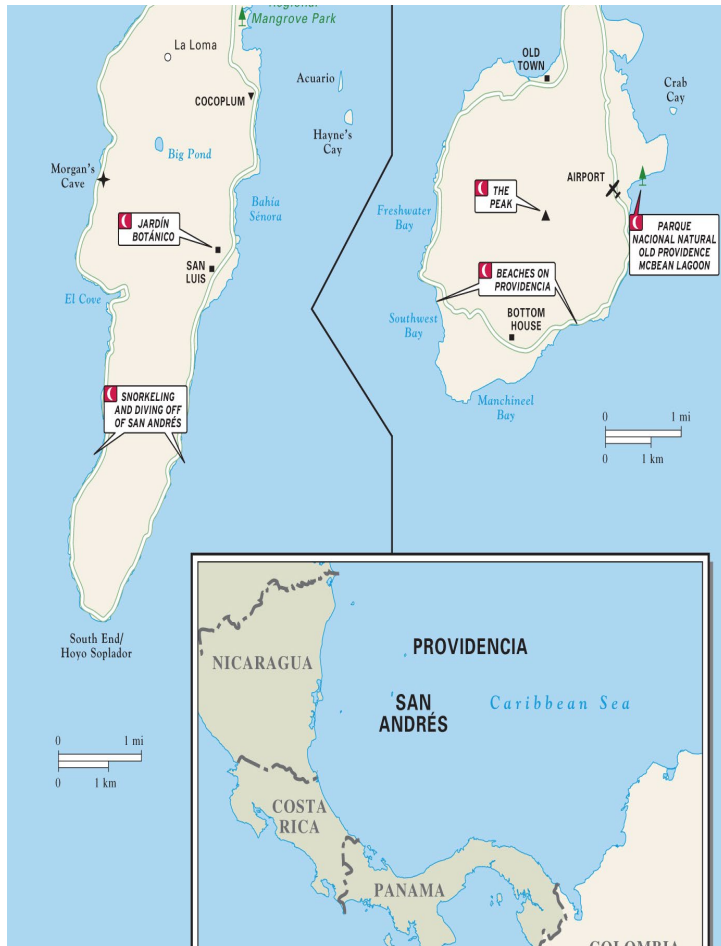
2. Proposed Analysis

- i. Sociolinguistic situation
- ii. Sound variation
- iii. Linguistic Landscape

3. Discussion

4. Acknowledgements

What's interesting about this place?



- 3 languages spoken: Islander Creole and Spanish (co-official), and Caribbean English to a lesser extent.
- Spanish in contact with a minority language.
- The simultaneous bilingual *Raizal* population and the immigrant expansion of Colombian Spanish-speaking mainlanders – a natural bilingual setting.
- A lesser-known variety of Spanish

PhD Research Project

*To explore the outcomes of language contact and the sociolinguistic factors influencing the Spanish production of the native *raizales*.



- *Two raizal communities: San Andres and Old Providence
- * Two complementary approaches:
 - Two features of the language that exhibit sound variation: Rhotics and coda /s/
 - A linguistic landscape analysis that allows for mapping the distribution of languages and the language policies in place.

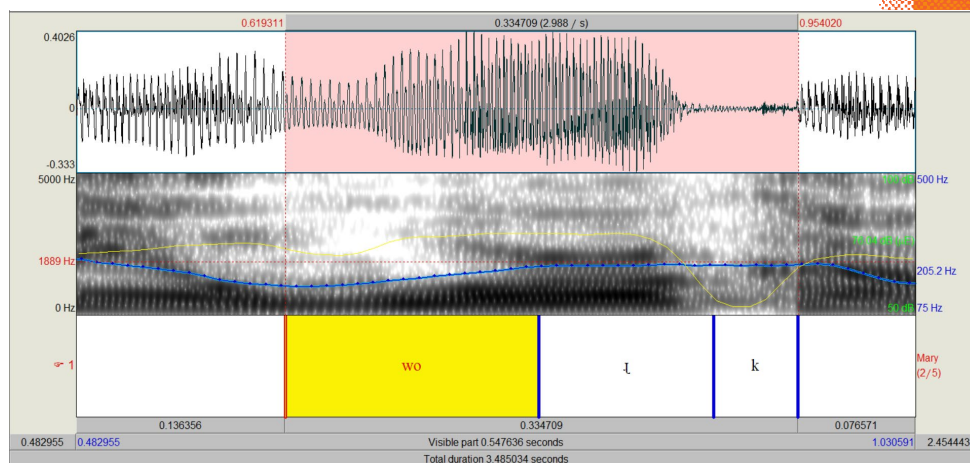
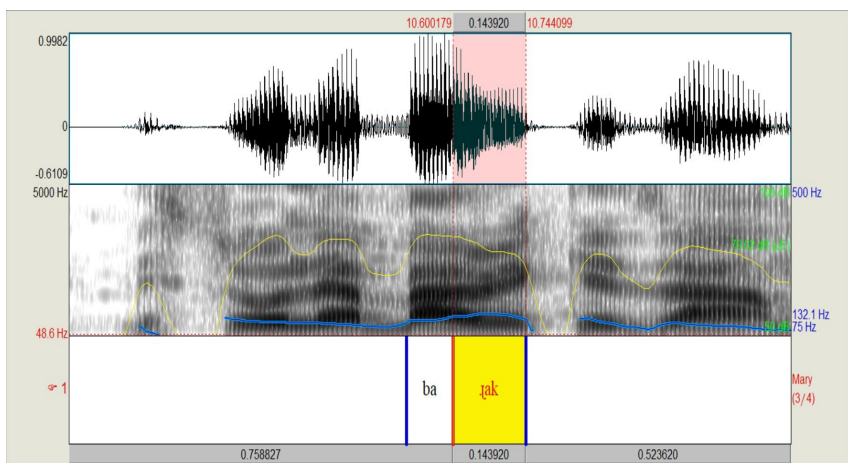
What we know about Islander Creole

- Spoken by approximately 31.000 bilingual *raizales*
- British English = main lexifier
- Western African languages derived from Kwa= (Twi) substrate lexifier
- Spoken in San Andres, Old Providence and Santa Catalina and Miskito coast (Nicaragua).

Creole associative morpheme =
dem (third person plural pronoun).
Frequent but not obligatory

(9) *Dem bwai go skul.*
DEM.PL boy go school
'Those boys go to school.'





Research Questions

- a. What sociolinguistic factors influence in the variable production of Spanish rhotics and final /s/reduction?
- b. Is this spreading socially in the direction of Spanish motivated by new generation of speakers who are more in contact with Spanish?
- c. What is the distribution of languages in written visual displays around the islands?
- d. What are the implications for this community and its ancestral language in terms of future official language planning and policies?

Population and procedures

Bilingual (Islander Creole - Spanish) *raizal* members of the rural communities of the Islands of San Andres and Old Providence.

Two phases of data collection:

Preliminary collection of pilot data (Spring break)

Main data collection (Summer)

Materials:

1. Sociolinguistic fieldwork

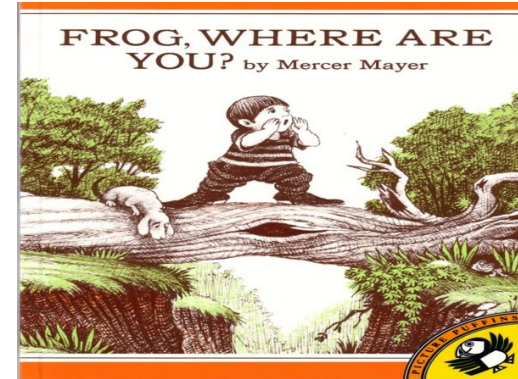
- Interviews
- Additional linguistic tasks
- Qualitative information

2. Geotagged photographic material

Materials

Narration

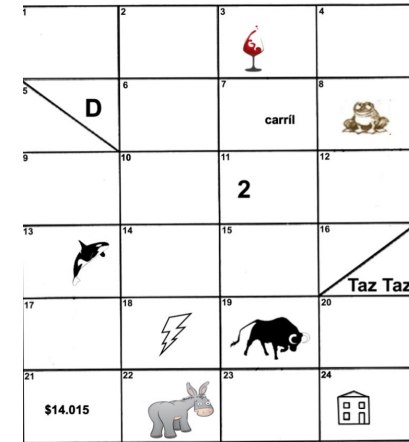
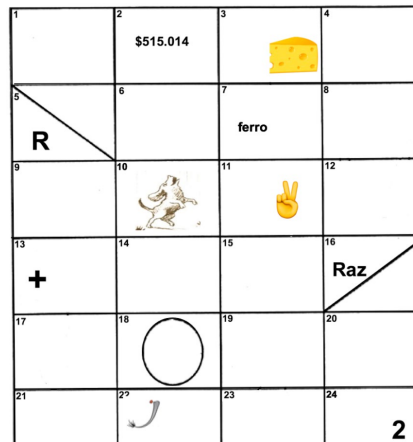
Frog, where are you? (Adapted from Mayer, 1969)



Collaboration

Jigsaw Task

(Adapted from
Thoms J., Liao J. & Szuztak A., 2005)



Diapix

(Adapted from Baker & Hazan, 2011)



Results: sociolinguistic situation

Observations from fieldwork:

1. Interethnic marriages
2. Education
 - Language of instruction
 - Tertiary education
3. Language Attitudes
4. Social Networks
5. Governmental policies

Sociolinguistic situation: Education and Language Attitudes



- Spanish as the language of instruction
- Undergraduate education and professional studies in continental Colombia
- Spanish deemed as the language of prestige
- Disagreements on adopting a creole orthography

Sociolinguistic situation: social networks and governmental policies



- Friends, neighbors and family members prefer to speak Spanish in downtown San Andres
- Spanish is being increasingly used at home among family members.

A continuum seems to exist:

La Loma-San Luis -----Centro

+kriol

+Spanish

- Commerce, business and official affairs are conducted in Spanish.
- It seems that there is a lack of political will to foster and protect the Raizal identity and language.



On the contrary

- Pride and identity
- Creole organizations
- Social Media, TV and newspapers
- Creole: taught at birth and spoken at home.
- Restrictions on immigration

Data

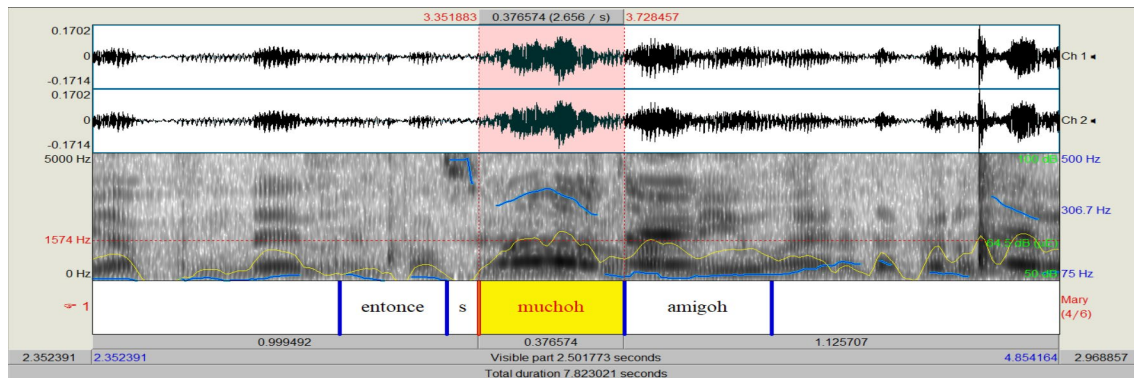


- 70 hours of estimated speech data across 3 generation of speakers
 - Seniors
 - Adults
 - Young

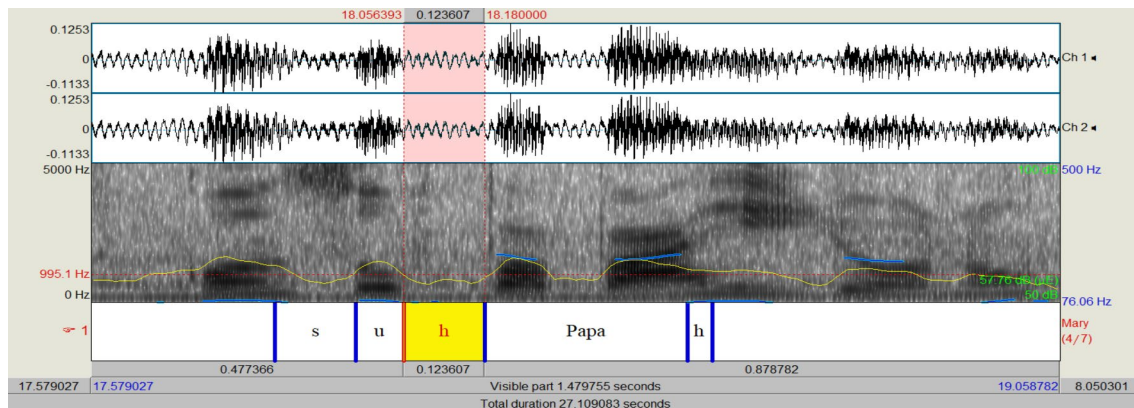


- 53 miles of visual tour, 1742 geotagged photographs of monolingual/bilingual written signs scattered around the islands of San Andres, Providencia and Santa Catalina

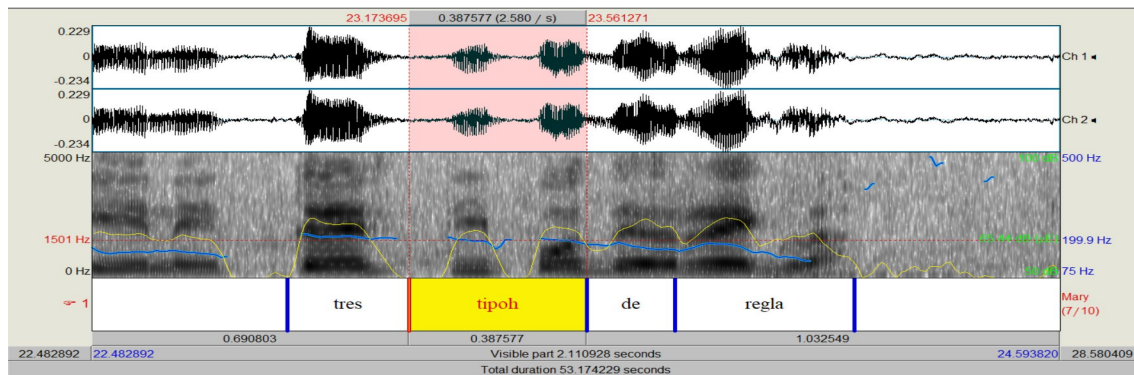
Sound Variation: Coda /s/



Continental Male, 28, contractor, born in SAI



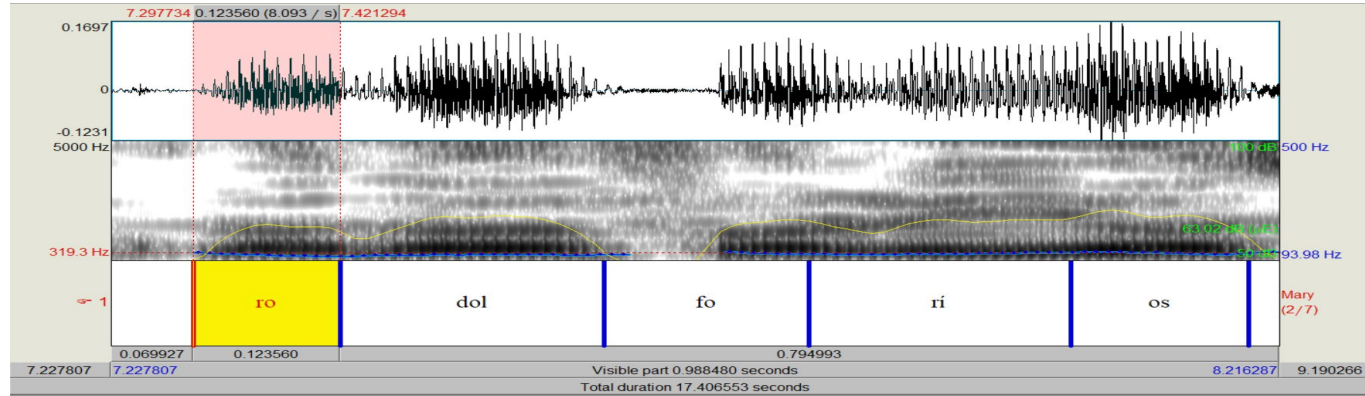
Female, 32, interethnic parents, lived in Cartagena for 4 years, lives in DT San Andres



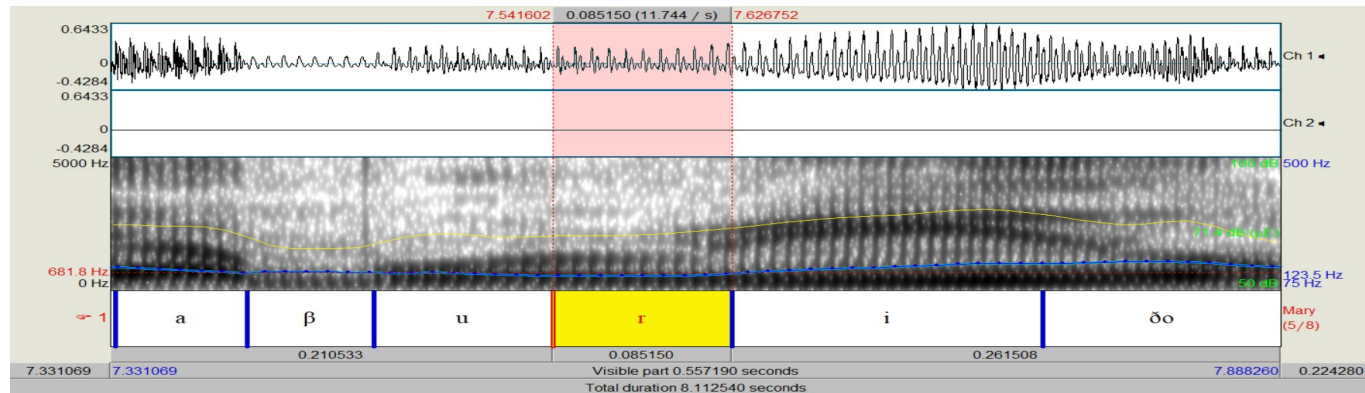
Female, 66, homemaker, high school, former softball player



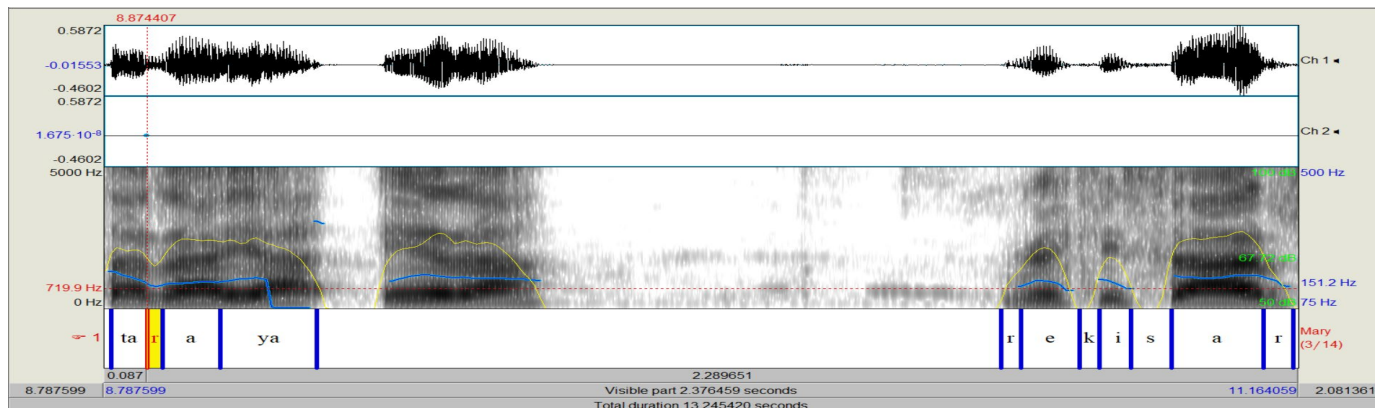
Sound Variation: Rhotics



Male informant, 26, unemployed, creole singer, high school



Male informant, 43, fisherman, 5th grade












Male informant, 73, retired, private baptist school, some college

Linguistic Landscape

☒ Creole Signs - San Andres

 Estilos individuales


-  Creole 1
-  Creole 2
-  Creole-Spanish 1
-  Creole 3
-  Creole-Spanish 2
-  Creole-Spanish 3
-  Creole-Spanish 4
-  Creole-Spanish 5
-  Creole-Spanish 6






☒ Creole Signs - Providencia

 Estilos individuales

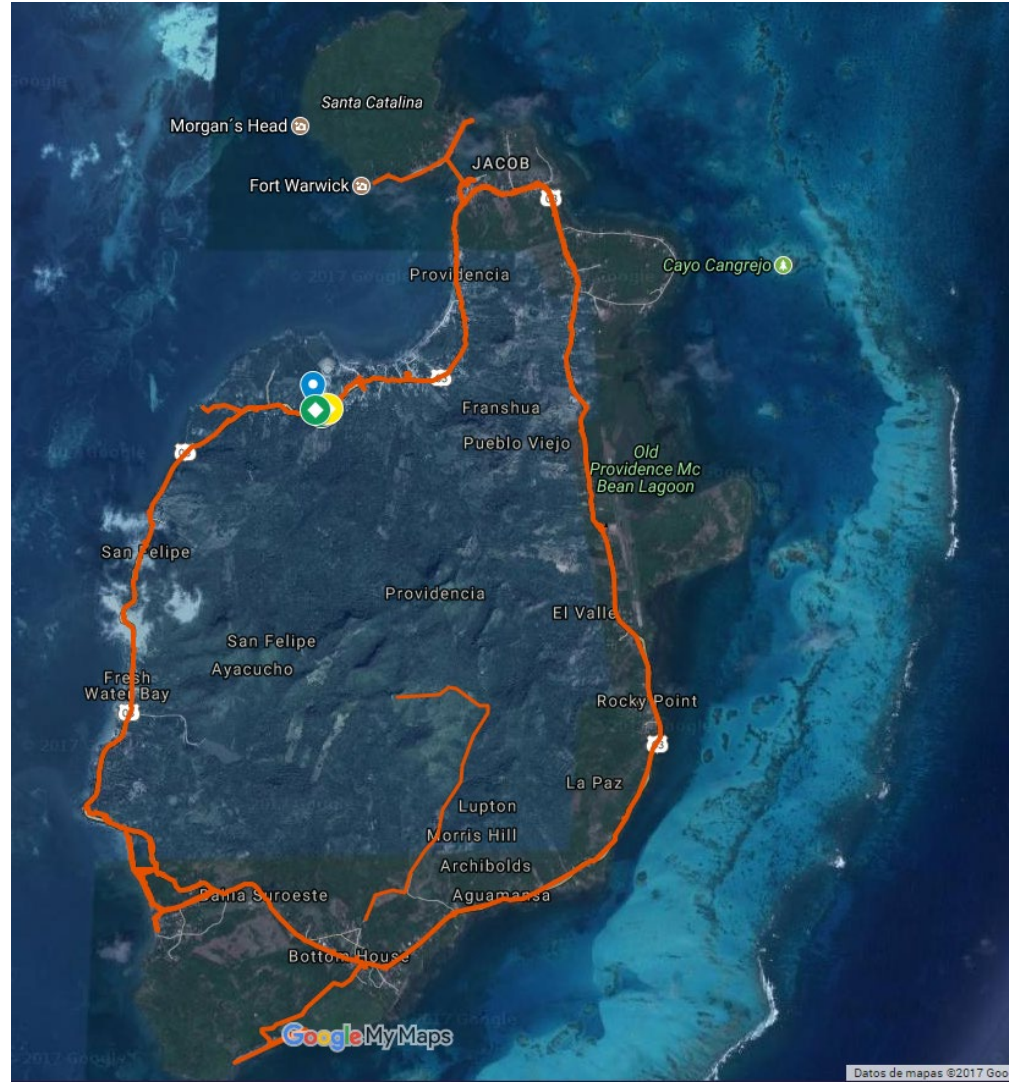
 Span 1

 Creole-Spanish 1

 Creole-Spanish 2

 Creole 1

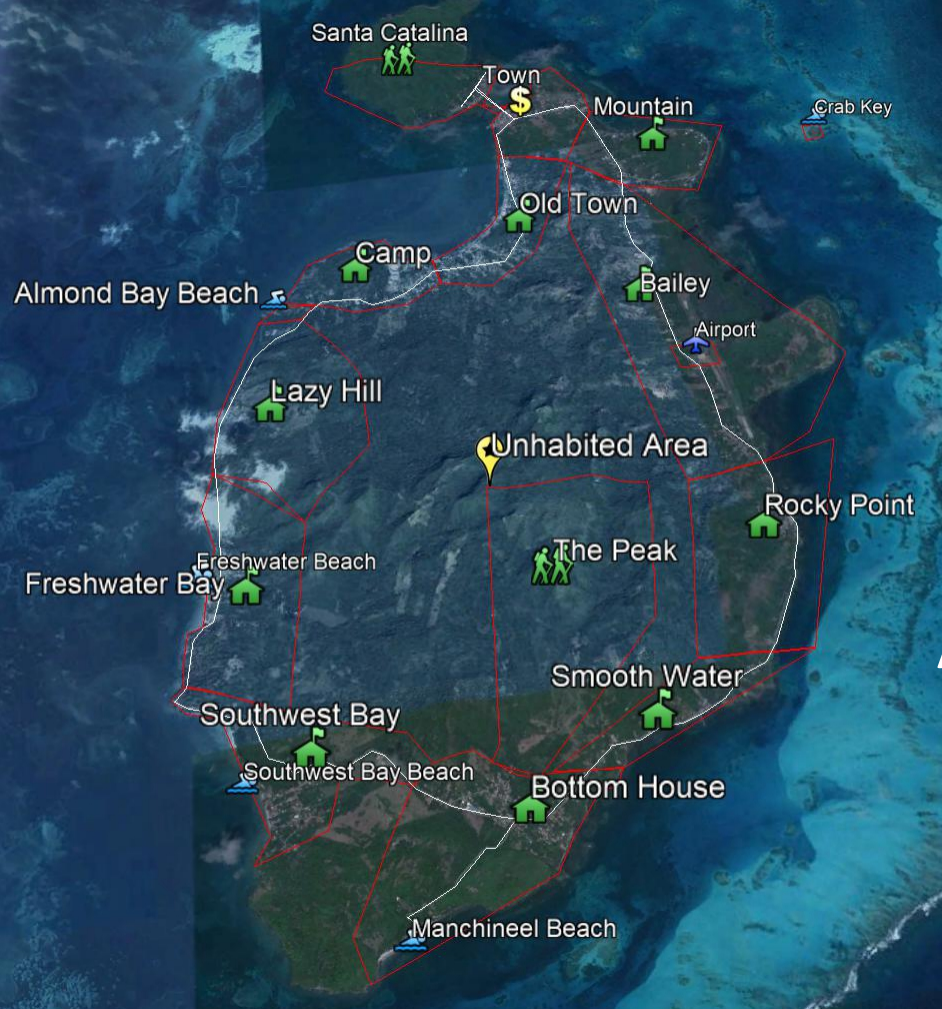
 Creole-Spanish 3



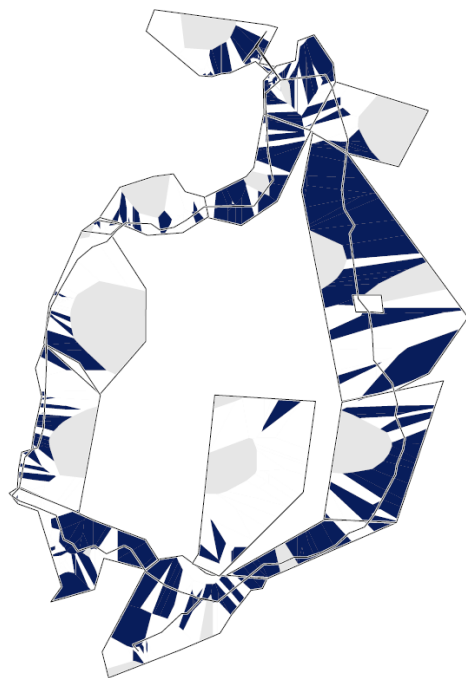
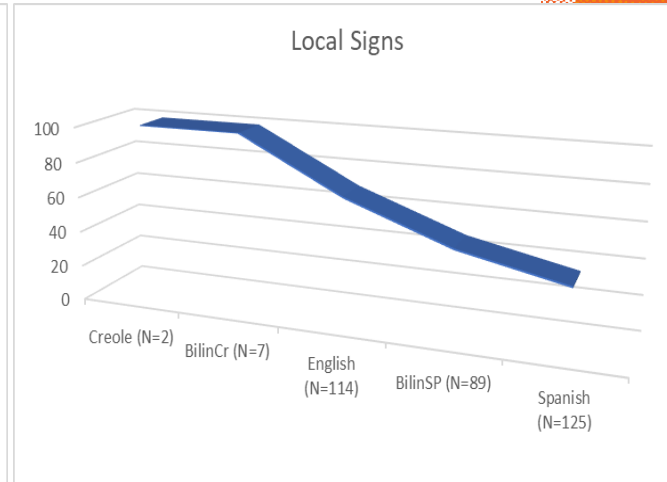
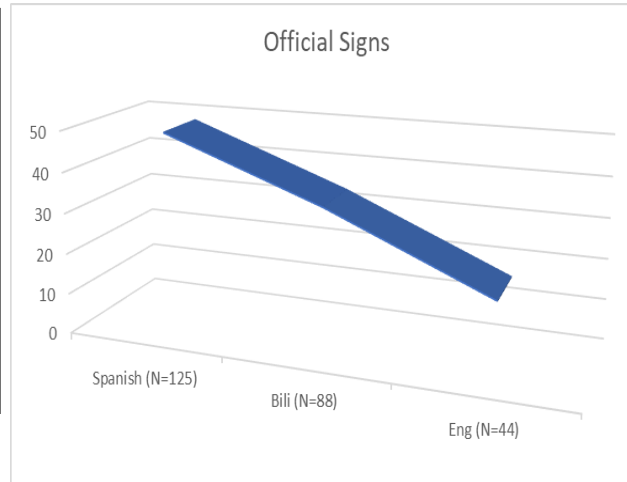
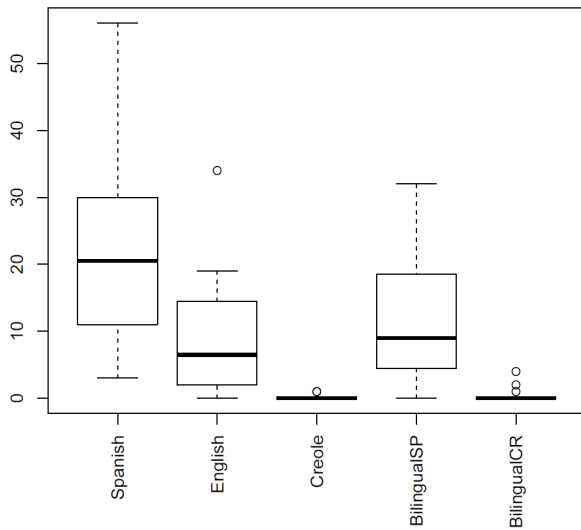


Legend

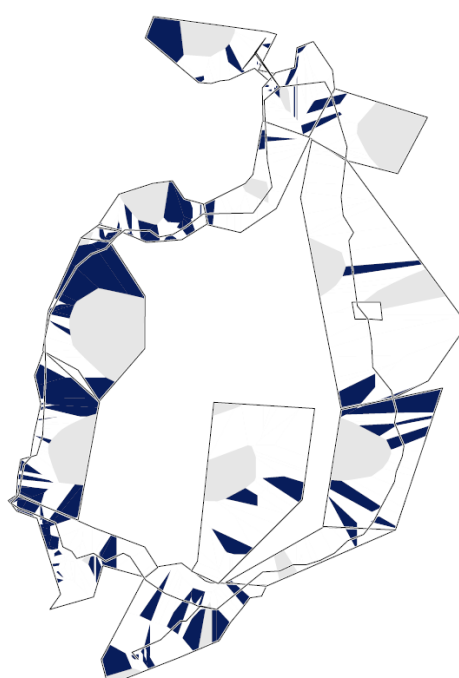
- Airport
- Beach
- Downtown
- Ethnic Neighborhood
- Tourism - Trekking
- Unhabited Area



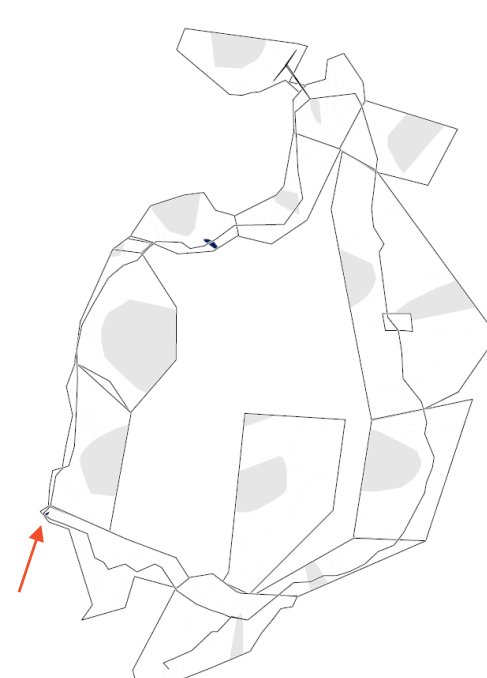
DIALECTOMETRIC ANALYSIS: GABMAP AND ARCGIS



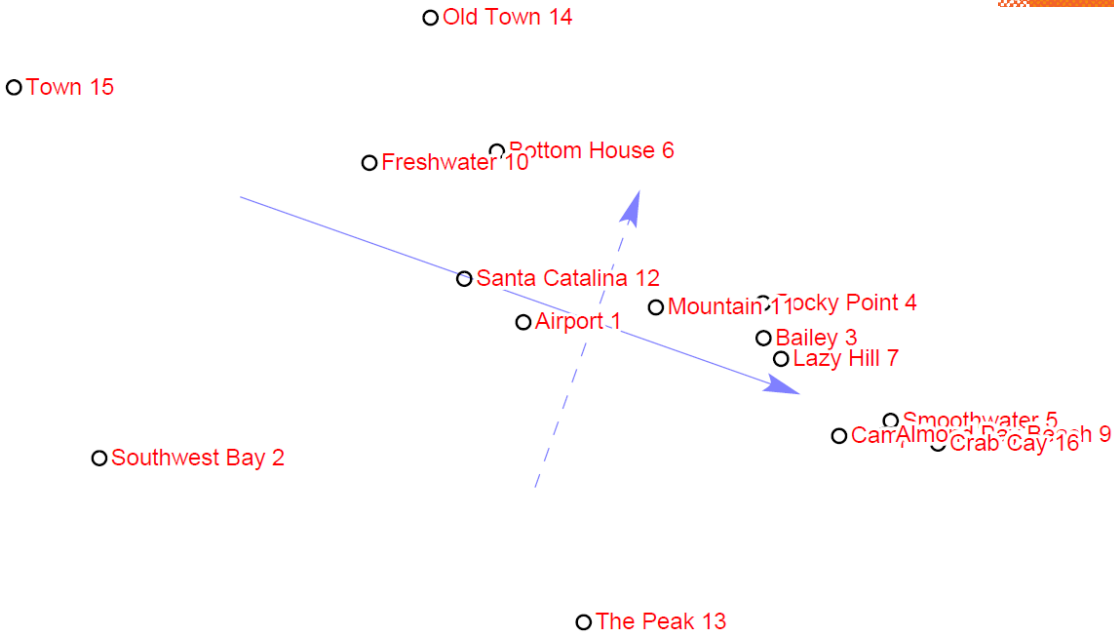
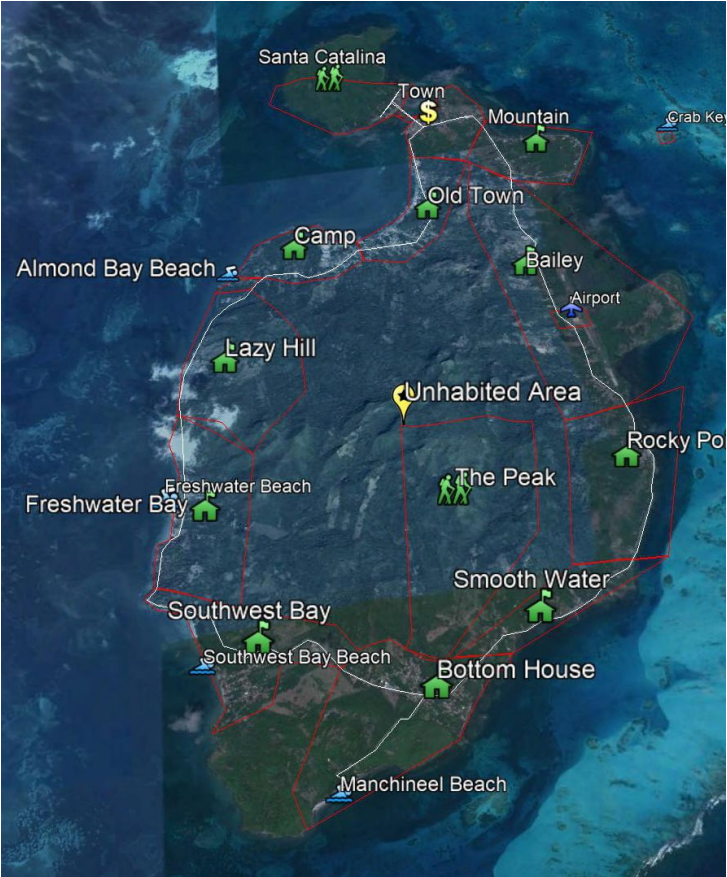
Distribution of Spanish Signs



Distribution of English Signs



Distribution of Creole Signs



Visual Representation of Linguistic Differences

Implications for the future analysis

Discussion

- Linguistic variation at the community level might reveal differential outcomes of language contact in San Andres and Providencia.
- Implications for fieldwork research on linguistic-disputed regions.
 - An integral approach that will provide a comprehensive perspective on language practices and attitudes in language contact areas.
- Implications for language policies and planning for the Archipelago

Acknowledgments



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